

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00
	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SGAC-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	EVR-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
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SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [US](#) [BC](#) [POL](#) [MIL](#)

SUBJECT: GENERAL WALD URGES BOTSWANA PARTICIPATION IN PKOS  
DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOGAE

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JOSEPH HUGGINS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) Summary: General Charles Wald, Deputy Commander of EUCOM, discussed EUCOM programs, Botswana,s training needs, and peacekeeping (PKO) issues in a meeting at the Presidency on April 13. General Wald said the African Union (AU), not the United Nations or the European Union, should have the lead in maintaining security in Africa. He urged Botswana to show leadership by participating in the current PKOs in Darfur by lending one or more of its C-130s on a reimbursable basis. This was crucial due to insufficient logistical support on the continent. President Mogae repeatedly cited difficulties with assisting, but when asked by General Wald if military planning support might be an option, said Botswana could contribute one or two planners. General Wald and Ambassador Huggins also highlighted the U.S. military,s humanitarian programs within Botswana, especially on HIV/AIDS, for which President Mogae thanked them. End summary.

12. (C) General Wald called on President Mogae in the company of the Ambassador, POLAD Terry Snell, DIA,s John Kiehm, Brigadier General Thomas Verbeck, DCM (notetaker), and other EUCOM staff. Asked by President Mogae what he had learned, General Wald lauded Botswana,s leadership in Africa. Mogae thanked him but noted that Botswana must &avoid missteps with neighbors,8 i.e. Zimbabwe.

13. (C) Commending the Botswana Defence Force as being &as good as any in Africa,8 General Wald said he had raised the importance of the AU in African peacekeeping during his BDF briefing. He stressed the urgent need for support in Darfur, Sudan. With the AU planning to double its force to 7,200, a capable airlift fleet was a necessity. General Wald said those troops would later transfer to UN command. Would Botswana offer its C-130s on a reimbursable basis, since they were among the few in Africa that actually functioned? While saying the U.S. would continue to give Botswana PKO training, General Wald pressed this theme throughout the conversation, appealing to Botswana,s leadership and generosity.

14. (C) President Mogae replied that, while Botswana accepted this in principle as a &moral duty,8 its budget constraints and the HIV/AIDS pandemic constrained Botswana,s participation. Botswana was already diverting development funds to fight HIV/AIDS. He added that Botswana had recently been asked to send troops for a PKO in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The two later discussed the complexity of assisting in the DRC. President Mogae agreed that military observer teams were preventing atrocities in Darfur and that Southern African countries should increase their presence. He added that the Sudanese think Botswana is hostile to them because he constantly raised the issue of the Arab north,s abuse of Sudan,s southern population at numerous OAU/AU meetings. He continued to maintain, however, that Botswana could not participate.

15. (C) General Wald then suggested that Botswana could contribute by providing military planning staff for these operations. If Botswana could provide three planners, this would be a significant contribution to the 32 total needed. President Mogae offered to send one or two planners.

16. (C) EUCOM also wanted Botswana, when it saw fit, to

provide leadership as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) forms its Brigade Response Force, said General Wald. He praised Botswana,s attention to addressing HIV/AIDS in the military. He and Ambassador Huggins discussed details of the U.S. military,s humanitarian assistance for HIV/AIDS and orphans, which President Mogae appreciated.

17. (C) Comment: President Mogae certainly had expected General Wald to ask Botswana to participate in PKOs, especially in Darfur, and he initially gave his standard response. However, he also knows how important Botwana,s participation is to the U.S., and his willingness to send planners reflects that understanding. SADC SecGen Ramsamy divulged in a later meeting (septel) that Botswana had offered C-130 support to the SADC Brigade Response Force. Ramsamy did not provide details of pledges to the new force, however, since the report is still in draft, and it is not clear that the C-130 might be available anytime soon for PKOs. Mission will follow up with Botswana on the C-130 issue since the proposal for use of the aircraft is on a reimbursable basis, and cost should no longer be a driving factor.

HUGGINS

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